

REMARKS

Responding to the Office Action of November 17, 2006, the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8 and 13 is noted and appreciated. Claim 13 has been rewritten to remove its dependence from claim 9 and is believed to now be in allowable form.

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Saltus-Werk (DE 3939816 A1) in view of Ford et al. (U.S. 2,794,463); claims 6 and 7 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Saltus-Werk in view of Ford et al. and further in view of Rudolf et al. (U.S. 6,155,916); claims 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, and 22 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Saltus-Werk in view of Carroll (U.S. 2,695,667); claims 11 and 12 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Saltus-Werk in view of Carroll and further in view of Rudolf et al.; claim 14 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Saltus-Werk in view of Carroll and further in view of Hirabayashi (U.S. 5,642,566); claim 17 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Saltus-Werk in view of Carroll and further in view of Zupancic (U.S. 4,774,848); and claims 18 and 19 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Saltus-Werk in view of Zupancic. Claims 9-12 and 14-22 are hereby canceled, but it is believed that the remaining claims 1 and 3-8 are patentable for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the subject matter and the orientation of the various components of the claimed cable cutter. In particular, claim 1 now specifies that the first portion of the torque arm attachment element is adjacent to a lateral side of the grip portion and the second portion of the torque arm attachment element is adjacent to the other lateral side of the grip portion. It will be seen that the combination of Saltus-Werk and Ford et al. fails to provide all of the elements of claim 1 as amended. First, neither reference teaches a drive gear

that is mounted on the main shaft (with the second gear) and engageable with one of the cutting blades. The drive gear 22 of Saltus-Werk is provided on a second shaft 28, which is separate from the main shaft 16 and the second gear 15. As for Ford et al., it teaches no structures corresponding to a drive gear, a main shaft, or a second gear, so the cited combination fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1 and it is believed that claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable for this reason alone.

Second, neither reference teaches a torque arm attachment element having a first portion adjacent one lateral side of the grip portion, a second portion adjacent the other lateral side of the grip portion, and a third portion connecting the first and second portions when the torque arm is installed. The Examiner correctly notes that Saltus-Werk fails to show the claimed torque arm. As for Ford et al., it teaches a much different structure, which is for supporting a drill and has no torque prevention capabilities. A bolt member 92 contacts the rear side of the drill grip portion (Fig. 3) to provide a force that prevents the drill from moving away from the work area, but neither the bolt member 92 nor the other two elements of the support structure (the supporting platform 68/70 and the plate 86) are positioned adjacent to the lateral sides of the grip portion, as required by claim 1. Thus, while the structure of Ford et al. may be suitable for supporting the weight of the drill, it does not include the claimed first and second portions of the torque arm attachment element or any other element that tends to prevent the drill handle from spinning during use. It is believed that claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable for this additional reason.

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In view of all the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-8, and 13 are respectfully requested. If any additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1039.

Respectfully submitted,

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